

Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for Eradication of Poverty
Policies for accelerating poverty eradication in Africa

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Agenda

1. Pre-pandemic context
2. Impact of the pandemic and Ukraine crises
3. Policies to accelerate poverty reduction in Africa

1. Pre-pandemic context

- Significant poverty reduction gains:
- Still prospects for SDG implementation by 2030 challenging in many African countries
 - “After four years of SDG implementation, the African continent was only halfway towards achieving the SDG goals and targets by 2030”, according to the 4th 2020 Africa Sustainable Development Report produced by the AU Commission, UNECA, AfDB, and UNDP.
- Poverty and vulnerability adversely impacted by various shocks, including climate change, security tensions, political instability

2. Impact of the pandemic and Ukraine crises

- With these overlapping crises, prospects for achieving SDGs by 2030 have worsened
- Due to reduced demand and enforced lockdowns:
 - I. The number of newly poor in Africa has increased by 55 million, and
 - II. Approximately 35 million formal jobs are at risk of reductions in wage and working hours. (UNECA)

3. Policies to accelerate poverty reduction

Policies to foster Africa's economic recovery:

- To help reduce poverty by boosting economic activity, job creation, and domestic revenue mobilization
- But need to be inclusive, strong, and sustainable:
 - Build resilience against climate, health, and security shocks
- Public health policies:
 - Pandemic control critical to help avoid containment measures which have proven more costly for the poor
- Climate adaptation and mitigation policies

3. Policies to accelerate poverty reduction

Other pro-poor policies:

- Agricultural policies:
 - Policies to tackle food insecurity
- Financial policies:
 - Financial inclusion: credit access for vulnerable (women and youth), MSME support (loan guarantees)
- Fiscal policies: tax exemptions, payment relief, and credit
- Anti-poverty programs (see Sembene, 2015):
 - Unconditional cash transfers;
 - Conditional cash transfers ;
 - In-kind transfer schemes: Food and energy price subsidies; Agricultural subsidies; Food assistance etc.

3. Policies to accelerate poverty reduction

Key challenges:

- Financing issues:
 - At the onset of the pandemic, many African countries implemented resilience programs
 - Limited policy space left for financing recovery efforts in several countries
 - Need for innovative financing instruments to support progress toward SDG 1 on ending extreme poverty in Africa: SDR reallocation, SDG-linked bonds, green bonds etc.



Thank you for your
attention.

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